

USAID/East Africa, REGI Program

EMP Part 1 of 3: Environmental Verification Form

USAID/East Africa, REGI Program, Award

Funding Period for this award: FY14-FY20

Name: Strengthening Forest Resource Management Capacity in Central Africa

Current FY Resource Levels: FY17 – 1.5 million

Name of Prime Implementing Organization: USDA Forest Service

This report prepared by:

Name: Richard Paton, USFS Central Africa Program Coordinator; richardpaton@fs.fed.us

Name of Sub-awardee Organization (if this EMP is for a sub): N/A

Date: March 13, 2018

Date of Previous EMP for this organization: None

Geographic location of USAID-funded activities (Province, District): Central Africa: DRC, RoC, Gabon, Cameroon

Date of Screening: March 2018

IEE File Name: DRC_CARPE_PhaseIII_IEE

Environmental Threshold Determination: Negative Determination with Condition

Indicate which activities your organization is implementing under this funding.

Key Elements of Program/Activities Implemented		Yes	No
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> education, technical assistance or training programs analyses, studies, academic or research workshops and meetings; document and information transfers; Nutrition, REGI care, or family planning services except to the extent designed to include activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, water supply systems, and waste water treatment). 	X	
2	Construction and renovation of facilities		X
3	Water Supply and Sanitation		X
4	Improved agricultural production involving seeds supply		X
5	Agricultural research likely to involve GMOs and biotechnology products		X

6	Development Credit Authority (DCA)		X
5	Sub grant activities or sub awards or including microfinance or Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) or Business Development Services (BDS)		X

USAID/East Africa, REGI Program

EMP Part 2 of 3: Mitigation Plan

Category of Activity	Activity associated with the intervention category	Describe specific environmental threats of your organization's activities	Description of Mitigation Measures for these activities	Who is responsible for monitoring	Monitoring Indicator	Monitoring Method	Frequency of Monitoring
1. Land Use Planning	Development of local land use management plans and fire management with select communities in Mai Ndombe Province DRC and Plateau Bateke in RoC. Build capacity within the ministry of environment on land use planning for forest zoning.	No significant environmental impacts anticipated as a result of these activities if plans created using science-based approach and information and implemented correctly.	Land use planning experts will provide technical, science-based guidance and best practices for this process. Local consultants ensure the process is context specific and appropriate.	USFS DRC and RoC coordinators	Land use expert recruited. Number of high-quality, context-appropriate plans and/or planning process developed.	Review of plans developed/ planning process. Mission reports and technical documents produced.	Input of technical expertise before, during and after the development of the plans/ planning process.
2. Private and Community-based Management Initiatives	Activities include land use planning activities with communities described above. Additionally	The scale of potential impact of fire management activities is very small (less than a	Scale of fire management activities will occur at a small scale to reduce the potential of negative	USFS DRC and RoC coordinators	100% of action related to the activities are based on science-based land and fire management	Review of partner reports who are based in the field. Review of	Semi-annual Prior to each paid contract

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	communities will be trained in improved fire management in both DRC and RoC. In DRC, selected communities will be paid for trail maintenance in Kahuzi-Biega National Park consistent with park management policy to promote community livelihood benefits.	hectare for fire training). No significant environmental impacts are anticipated as a result of these activities.	<p>environmental impacts, while providing communities with the tools and knowledge to improve land and resource management.</p> <p>For community payments in Kahuzi-Biega National park, this approach will be modelled after a successful implemented model in neighboring Nyungwe National Park in Rwanda. The amount that will be paid to the communities will be in line with rates used by the park when working with local communities so that in the future the park can ideally take over paying for</p>		<p>processes and information.</p> <p>Paid plan of community contracts modelled from neighboring park adapted to Kahuzi-Biega Park policies and procedures</p> <p>Science-based fire management plans developed.</p>	<p>documentation.</p> <p>Photos.</p> <p>Mission reports.</p> <p>Paid sheet</p>	

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			these contracts. The payments will be made after the work is completed and will follow an annual schedule outlined in the community contracts.				
3. Construction and Infrastructure Development	USFS will support the rehabilitation of existing trail networks and development of interpretation material in Kahuzi-Biega and Virunga National Parks in DRC as well as in Gabon and RoC. In Virunga National Park a new path which will be approximately 9 km long will be designed, consistent with	Rehabilitation of existing paths/trails poses minimal environmental threats since rehabilitation is limited to small-scale hand-tool clearing of overgrown brush on trails (typically less than one meter in width and several kms in length) and small-scale erosion control methods such as	<p>The rehabilitation of paths/trails will be completed using sustainable trail clearing and maintenance techniques which will reduce any potential existing negative environmental impacts.</p> <p>The design and development of a new path in Virunga National Park will be led by an expert on trail design and construction. They</p>	USFS DRC, RoC and Central Africa Coordinators	<p>Rehabilitation of trails and park ecotourism infrastructure does not significantly or materially alter the existing trails or infrastructure in a way that negatively impacts the environment.</p> <p>Design of the new trail done by an expert</p>	<p>Site visits, photos.</p> <p>Partner reports and mission reports.</p> <p>Report of consultation with the expert</p>	Before, during and after activities and to be reviewed semi-annually.

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	and USAID guidelines for small construction: and environmental impact mitigation measures here mentioned. In Gabon, existing ecotourism structures, such as viewing platforms and/or lodging huts may be rehabilitated.	banked and gullied trail construction. Rehabilitation of ecotourism structures in Gabon and DRC will be limited to several small existing structures. In RoC Nouabale-Ndoki National Park, ecotourism infrastructure development will be implemented by CARPE partner WCS consistent with USAID guidelines for small scale construction.	will use a sustainable trail design following industry standards which minimizes environmental impact including respecting sensitive zonings and erosion control. The expert will design the path and train community teams on how to construct the path using handtools and sustainable and low impact techniques. The trail will be for school groups so communities can learn more about the volcano and its importance. Creating this new path will increase the park surveillance in this area of the park, reducing illegal activities				

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			such are illegal charcoal production. Prior consultations will be held with park authorities to ensure that the new trail does not negatively impact any habitat of species at risk or of special interest.				
4. Creation of alternative financing mechanisms to fund protected areas	See trails work referenced in Activity 3 and community payments in Activity 2.						
5. Design and implementation of management plans for national parks, protected areas and community forest reserves, including but not limited to	See Activity 1.						

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these specific planned activities							
7. Pilot Ecotourism Activities	See Activities 2, 3, 4.						

EMP part 3 of 3: Reporting form

List each Mitigation Measure from column 3 in the EMP Mitigation Plan (EMP Part 2 of 3)	Status of Mitigating Measures	List any outstanding issues relating to required conditions	Remarks
<p>1.Land Use Planning</p> <p>Land use planning experts will provide technical, science-based guidance and best practices for this process. Local consultants ensure the process is context specific and appropriate.</p>			.
<p>2. Private and Community-based Management Initiatives</p> <p>Scale of fire management activities will occur at a small scale to reduce the potential of negative environmental impacts, while providing communities with the tools and knowledge to improve land and resource management.</p> <p>For community payments in Kahuzi-Biega National park, this approach will be modelled after a successful implemented model in neighboring Nyungwe National Park in Rwanda. The amount that will be paid to the communities will be in line with rates used by the park when working with local communities so that in the future the park can ideally take over paying</p>			

for these contracts. The payments will be made after the work is completed and will follow an annual schedule outlined in the community contracts.			
<p>3.Construction and Infrastructure Development</p> <p>The rehabilitation of paths/trails will be completed using sustainable trail clearing and maintenance techniques which will reduce any potential existing negative environmental impacts.</p> <p>The design and development of a new path in Virunga National Park will be led by an expert on trail design and construction. They will use a sustainable trail design following industry standards which minimizes environmental impact including respecting sensitive zonings and erosion control. The expert will design the path and train community teams on how to construct the path using handtools and sustainable and low impact techniques. The trail will be for school groups so communities can learn more about the volcano and its importance. Creating this new path will increase the park surveillance in this area of the park reducing illegal activities such are illegal charcoal production. Prior consultations will be held with park authorities to ensure that the new trail does not negatively</p>			

impact any habitat of species at risk or of special interest.			
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Certification

I certify the completeness and the accuracy of the mitigation and monitoring plan described above for which I am responsible and its compliance with the IEE:



March 13, 2018

Signature

Richard Paton

USDA Forest Service

BELOW THIS LINE FOR USAID USE ONLY

USAID/Central Africa, CARPE Program, Clearance of EMP:

Contracting/Agreement Officer Technical Representative: _____ Date: _____

Mission Environmental Officer: _____ Date: _____

As appropriate: REA, BEO [depending on nature of activity, which potentially may require an EA]

Note: if clearance is denied, comments must be provided to applicant